

IN THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-37 (canceled).

38 (currently amended). A method of synthesis using a porous device comprising a body having an internal region which is porous, wherein a multiplicity of particles of an active material is-are entrapped within the internal region and held in position by a physical weld, the method of synthesis comprising the step of contacting said porous device with a first reagent under conditions which cause said first reagent to react with said active material, so that a bond is formed between the active material and said first reagent or a fragment thereof.

39 (canceled).

40 (previously added). A method according to claim 38, which involves contacting said porous device with reagents in order to prepare a compound which is covalently bonded to the active material of the porous device.

41 (previously added). A method according to claim 38, wherein said active material is arranged to act as a support for a compound prepared in solid phase synthesis.

42 (previously added). A method according to claim 38, wherein said active material includes a linker or is covalently bonded to a linker in said synthesis.

43 (previously added). A method according to claim 38, which includes the step of cleaving a compound prepared from the active material.

44-46 (canceled).

47 (previously added). A method according to claim 38, wherein said internal region comprises a random network of pores which network has a substantially fixed configuration.

48 (currently amended). A method according to claim 38, wherein said porous device has a predetermined fixed shape.

49 (previously added). A method according to claim 38, wherein the porosity at a surface of the device is substantially the same as the porosity of the internal region adjacent said surface.

50 (previously added). A method according to claim 38, wherein said porous device is substantially self-supporting.

51 (previously added). A method according to claim 38, wherein said internal region of said porous device is defined by active material such that said internal region consists essentially of active material.

52 (previously added). A method according to claim 38, wherein said porous device comprises an inert material and an active material.

53 (currently amended). A method according to claim ~~38~~ 52, wherein the inert material is arranged to entrap the active material within the internal region of the device.

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54 (currently amended). A method according to claim ~~38~~ 53, wherein said inert material defines a porous support means and said active material is arranged within pores of said porous support means.

55 (previously added). A method according to claim 52, wherein said active material is not covalently bonded to said porous support means.

56 (previously added). A method according to claim 52, wherein the active material is in the form of a multiplicity of individual particles, wherein said particles are separated from one another by said inert material.

57 (previously added). A method according to claim 52, wherein said inert material is a thermoplastic.

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cont.
58 (previously added). A method according to claim 38, wherein particles of said active material are substantially spherical.

59-74 (canceled).

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75 (new). A method of synthesis using a porous device comprising a body having an internal region which is porous, wherein an inert material which is a thermoplastic defines a porous support means and a multiplicity of particles of an active material are entrapped within the internal region in pores of said porous support means, wherein said pores of said porous support means are not defined by a fabric material, a filamentous material or a fibrous material and wherein said active material is a resin, the method of synthesis including the step of contacting said porous device with a first reagent under conditions which cause said first reagent to react with said active material, so that a bond is formed between the active material and said first reagent or a fragment thereof.

76 (new). A method according to claim 38, wherein said internal region is monolithic.

77 (new). A method according to claim 38, wherein the porosity of the internal region is substantially constant across its extent.

78 (new). A method according to claim 38, wherein said porous device has a volume of at least 150 mm³.

79 (new). A method according to claim 38, wherein said active material is a cross-linked resin bead.

80 (new). A method according to claim 38, wherein said porous device includes at least 40wt% of active material.

81 (new). A method according to claim 52, wherein said device consists essentially of active material and inert material.

82 (new). A method according to claim 38, wherein said active material is distributed throughout substantially the entirety of said internal region.
